

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

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R 231455Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4453

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - EXTRA SECTIONS

REF: STATE 73181

1. APRIL 6 NEW YORK-ROME ROUNDTRIP AIRLIFT INTERNATIONAL-ALITALIA "WET LEASE" ALL-CARGO FLIGHT WAS NOT OPERATED BECAUSE ALITALIA'S ROME OFFICES COULD NOT ARRANGE NECESSARY INSURANCE COVERAGE IN TIME FOR APRIL 6 DEPARTURE, ACCORDING TO ALITALIA AIR CARGO REPS HERE.

2. PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTEL, EMBOFF HAD DISCUSSED DIFFERENCE IN CAB REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA SECTION FLOWN BY ALITALIA AIRCRAFT AND EXTRA SECTION FLOWN BY "WET LEASE" WITH ALITALIAN REP LECCESE. HE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFERENCE AND THAT PRIOR CAB APPROVAL NOT RPT NOT REQUIRED (AT LEAST AT PRESENT) FOR EXTRA SECTIONS FLOWN BY ALITALIA AIRCRAFT.

3. EMBOFF DISCUSSED EXTRA SECTIONS PROBLEM AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP LA MORTE ON APRIL 20. HE, TOO, UNDERSTOOD DIFFERENCE AS EXPLAINED PARA 2 REFTEL. EMBOFF REQUESTED MFA ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MARCH-APRIL ALITALIA ALL-CARGO SERVICES SCHEDULED/ACTUALLY OPERATED.

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4. EMBASSY BELIEVES ALITALIA WILL USE ITS OWN AIRCRAFT FOR

ALL-CARGO EXTRA SECTIONS WHENEVER AVAILABLE; WHEN NOT AVAILABLE, "WET LEASE" ARRANGEMENT WITH A US CARRIER WILL BE REQUESTED. GIVEN NATURE OF AIR CARGO BUSINESS, CARRIERS DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE WHEN CARGO BACKLOG MAY OCCUR. EMBASSY URGES CAB TO RECOGNIZE IMPOSSIBILITY OF MEETING 30 DAY ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENT FOR "WET LEASE" ALL-CARGO EXTRA SECTION. SINCE CIVILAVIA NOW APPROVING EXTRA CARGO SECTION REQUESTS BY US CARRIERS WITHOUT CONDITIONS, EMBASSY HOPES CAB WOULD BE WILLING APPROVE "WET NURSE" REQUESTS TO SERVE AS ALITALIA ALL-CARGO EXTRA SECTION ON LESS THAN 30 DAYS NOTICES UNDER EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING PROCEDURE, PROVIDED THERE IS NO RPT NO EVIDENCE THAT ALITALIA IS DELIBERATELY OVERSELLING CARGO SPACE.

5. DURING PREVIOUS WEEK TWA WAS GRANTED PERMISSION BY CIVILAVIA TO OPERATE EXTRA PASSENGER SECTION BETWEEN PARIS AND ROME. REQUEST WAS ORIGINALLY DENIED BY CIVILAVIA ON GROUNDS ALITALIA HAD SUFFICIENT CAPACITY. LOCAL TWA REP THEN TELEPHONED LECCESE OF ALITALIA AND INQUIRED IF ALITALIA IN FACT HAD USFFICIENT SPACE AVAILABLE, URGIN INTERVENTION WITH CIVILAVIA IF THIS NOT THE CASE. LECCESE DID NOT CONTACT TWA AGAIN, BUT CIVILAVIA SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED TWA REQUEST. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST EXTRA PASSENGER SECTION APPROVED IN MEMORY OF LOCAL PAA/TWA REPS (THEIR EXPERIENCE HERE GOES BACK TO 1969) AND MAY INDICATE A (BELATED) RECOGNITION BY CIVILAVIA OF CHANGED AIRLINE CAPACITY SITUATION CAUSED BY FUEL SITUATION. EMBASSY NOTES APPARENTLY USEFUL ROLE PLAYED BY ALITALIA IN THIS SITUATION. VOLPE

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